(b) and (c) The Federation lias, interalia, suggested the following ior rationalising the provisions 01 tiie Prevention of Food Adulteration Act
1954:

(i) Penalties be graded according to tuc gravity ol urtenee — The provisions specifying minimum punishment should be deleted.

(ii; Imported food articles should net be subjected to the provisions of the Prevention of Food Auul-tenuion Act and certificate issued bj tlie exporting country with re-gai\l 10 the nature and quality of fo id imported should be deemed to be sufficient compliance of me Pn:v union of rood Adulteration A 1 in India.

(id) Provisions be made per-nv'tnng appointment of more than one nominee by a company.

(i\) Prosecution of manufacture/supplier alone in certain situations when vendor does not seem to be responsible for the offer ce.

(d) The Report of the Task Force has *b* v:i examined by the Government in consultalion with the Central Committee on Food Standards, a Statul jry Committee set up under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and the representatives of Con-federation of Indian Fond Trade and Industry fdFTI) ami the process for initiating modifications has com-mence 1,

Sub-ci\'tca! iiuLMai tests conducted by USA

•335. SHRIMVT! V) EKA VI RM\:

SHRT SUSHH KUMAR
BHAJ1RAO SI1INDE:

W. t: . PRIME MINISTER be Housed to refer in answer to Unstirred Question (90 riven i$_n$ the Raiya Sabha on the *Z'ih* July, 1997. and state:

(a) what is the precise nature sad number of $ub-:rilical nuclear testa con-ducted so far by the USA; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OP STATE IN THE MiNJMKY Or EXrERNAX AFFAIRS lilniRl SALEEM IQBAL sHEKWAMj: U) Un Juiy 2, **J.SW7,** the Untied Stales conducted cue iue-crtfieai nu^iear i«jt condenamed "Rebound' at its test site in .vi.dvu. ine test has oven called "iUU-critical" because no critical mas is formed during the experiment which can lead 10 a seu-sustatttiog nuclear chain taction.

(b) Government have taken note of tho "sub-critical" underground nuclear test and expressed con.crn that this has beca justified "as an activity pe.mitted under the CTBT". These developments coniirm the validity o: Indij's concerns exp during the CTBT negotiation*, as well as our eventual decision last year, that India could not be a party to such s treaty. India however continues to remain committed to BCitevJBj genuine sndeaf disarmament in a comprehensive and non-di-criminatory manner.

McdicJ collaboration between SRMC, Cbennai and HMS. I

•336 SHRI AKHILESH & will the PRIMI MINISTER be pleased to slate; (a) whether Government ire aware that Shri Rjunucbandn (SRMC), Iihemai, has *tied* up with toe School of USA, for collaborative efforts in the key areas cf research, (realm B) ttanvfer of information, as repot i?d in the Hindu, dated [he 27th July, 1997;

(hi whether an agreement to ihh has ijnce brcn signed betsvetti the "ives ul the SRMC anj the Harvaerd School; an J

(c) if so. what are the brosd featwrw of Use ssreenseat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c). An agreement between Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai (a deemed University) and Harvard Medical International Inc. (HMI) was signed on 11th February 1997 to become effective from 1-4-97 for a period of 5 years. The agreement broadly envisages the utilization of the expertise available in the Harvard Medical School for strengthening medical education and research facilities at the Deemed University; utilizing such services for enhancing the quality of clinical care services; providing opportunities to at least two students nominated by the Deemed University to pursue further education and training at the Harvard Medical School, and providing an opportunity to the faculty members of the Deemed University for short term exposure to the various aspects of the Harvard Medical System.

The Central Government communicated its no objection to the proposal subject to the condition that no financial commitments would devolve upon the Government or the University Grants Commission and the payments would be made as per Reserve Bank of India Regulations. The organisers had assured the Medical Council of India that the collaboration is purely an academic one and no commercial benefits are to be derived from it.

Disparity in the Pay Scales of Hindi and English Stenographers in NBCC, etc.

*335. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether there is a wide disparity between the pay scales of Hindi and English Stenographers in NBCC, HUDCO and Hindustan Prefab Limited (HPL);

(b) if so, the details and justification thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to remove this disparity and give justice to Hindi Stenographers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Preventing goods in transit from being smuggled into India

*338. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 166 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997, and state as to how do Government plan to prevent goods from the transit route between Nepal and Bangladesh via Phulbari, from being smuggled into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): The operating modalities and working arrangements of the transit route between Nepal and Bangladesh via Phulbari are presently being worked out by Government of India in consultation with the Government of Nepal. The operating modalities are nearing finalisation. All due care will be taken to ensure that smuggling of goods from the proposed transit route does not take place.

Reciprocal recognition of BDS degrees by India, Romania, UK and Australia

*339. SHRI PARAG CHARARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 964 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1997, and state:

(a) whether Romania, UK and Australia recognise BDS degrees conferred by Indian Universities and, if so, the